

viii) A bilateral agreement has been arrived at with authorities in Pakistan whereby periodic meetings take place at Secretary level and DG level. Representatives of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies have been included in the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers. Contact points have been designated by the two countries for direct operational communication.

ix) A comprehensive bilateral agreement has been entered into by the Govt. of India and the Government of Union of Myanmar for reducing demand and preventing illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.

x) The Govt. of India has provided two drug sniffer dogs and also trained dog-handlers to Myanmar for detection of drugs.

(c) and (d) As per information available, details of number of cases and persons arrested in connection with heroin smuggling during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 are given below:-

Year	No. of Cases	No. of Persons Arrested
1994	51	49
1995	69	58
1996	53	56

Stringent action against the offenders is initiated in accordance with the provisions of NDPS Act, 1985.

Import of Urea

3136. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America has frozen 2.5 million dollars meant for payment of urea purchased from Libya;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to get the frozen amount released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. MMTC had opened a Letter of Credit (L/C) for US\$ 2.5 million in favour of National Oil Company, Libya for purchase of 13,817 MTs of urea, through Indian Overseas Bank. The L/C was confirmed by the Union Bank of Switzerland. Indian Overseas Bank as per instructions of Union Bank of Switzerland, remitted the amounts through Chase Manhattan Bank, New York who froze this amount. The entire quantity of urea was received by MMTC in April '96. Indian Overseas Bank has taken up the release of above money to the National Oil Company, Libya through the Ministry of External Affairs. MMTC has no further liability or role in this transaction.

Employment Generation

3137. SHRI K. PARASURMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has asked the R.B.I. to suggest various measures for employment generation and poverty alleviation schemes including adequate credit flow to rural and priority sectors;

(b) whether the RBI has since given its concrete suggestions in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details of the suggestions of the RBI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Banks have been implementing various poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes formulated by the Govt. of India. These schemes include Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY).

The performance of public sector banks in these schemes for the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :

(Number in Lakhs)

Name of the scheme	Year	Physical Target	Physical Achievement	
Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)	1993-94	25.69	25.38	
	1994-95	21.15	21.12	
	1995-96	N.A.	15.82	
		Target	Sanctioned	Disbursement
Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME)	1993-94	1.23	1.83	1.49
	1994-95	1.20	1.44	1.18
	1995-96	1.17	1.18	0.93
Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY)	*1993-94	0.42	0.32	0.21
	1994-95	2.20	1.94	1.11
(*Oct. 93 to March 94)	1995-96	3.21	2.94	1.63

NOTE : Under IRDP, the number mentioned under physical targets and achievement denote the number of families.

Instructions/guidelines are issued by RBI to banks from time to time for the implementation of the Govt. sponsored poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes. The progress of implementation of these schemes are monitored by the Govt. of India at the All India level. These schemes are also monitored at the District Level Consultative Committee and State Level Bankers' Committee Meetings. Further, RBI has constituted a separate monitoring cell for the implementation of PMRY and IRDP under the overall charge of the concerned Deputy-Governor.

Public Sector Undertakings

3138. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether various departments of Public Sector Undertakings do not keep examination centre or interview centre in the capitals of the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to issue directions in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Under the Articles of Association/ Statute, the management of PSUs enjoy autonomy so far as recruitment at below board level posts is concerned. Hence, no such information is maintained centrally by the Govt.

[Translation]

Pending Election Petitions

3139. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of election petitions lying pending in various High Courts and in the Supreme Court since 1991 till date;

(b) the reasons for the delay in disposals; and

(c) the steps taken to expeditious disposal of these election petitions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The requisite information as made available by the Election Commission is given in the Statement which is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Under election law, trial of an election petition should, so far as is practicable consistently with the interests of justice in respect of the trial, be continued from day to day until its conclusion and endeavour should be made to conclude the trial within six months from the date on which the election petition is presented to the High Court for trial. However, examination of a large number of witnesses, seeking adjournments on various grounds and

procedural wrangles, etc., are amongst the various reasons for the delay in disposal of election petitions.

(c) Government has referred the issue of pendency of election petitions to the Law Commission for a comprehensive study.

STATEMENT

Number of election petitions pending in High Courts and appeals pending in Supreme Court

(Position as on 7.3.1997)

S.No.	Name of election	Number of petitions pending in High Courts	Number of appeals pending in Supreme Court
1	2	3	4
1.	General Elections to the House of the People held in May-June 1991	11	1
2.	General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies held in 1991-92	15	3
3.	General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies held in February and November 1993	96	10
4.	General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies held in November-December 1994	15	3
5.	General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies held in 1995	94	2
6.	General Elections to the House of the People held in April-May 1996	43	-
7.	General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies held in April-May 1996	90	3
8.	Biennial Elections to the Council of States - 1992	2	-
9.	Biennial Elections to the Legislative Council - 1992	2	-
10.	Biennial Elections to the Legislative Council - 1993	3	-
11.	Biennial Elections to the Council of States - 1994	2	-
12.	Bye-elections to the Legislative Assemblies - 1991	1	1
13.	Bye-elections to the Legislative Assemblies - 1992	-	-
14.	Bye-elections to the Legislative Assemblies - 1993	2	-